

Conservation News

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Pope Soil & Water Conservation District

1680 Franklin St North, Glenwood, MN 56334

(320) 634-5327 Phone

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Pope SWCD Now Online

The Pope Soil & Water Conservation District is now online. The website has a variety of information from tree products for sale to information about tree and shrub varieties.

The district provides quality products and services for the benefit of landowners and enhancement of our wildlife and natural resources.

The site also includes the new 2004 tree order form as well as information on the native grass program. So check out the site at www.popeswcd.org.

If you have any questions about the site or the information email us at info@popeswcd.org.



Native grass planting by the district.



It's Tree & Grass Order Time!

The 2004 tree order forms are out and orders are now being taken for spring delivery. Order forms were sent to all landowners and producers in Pope County. If you would like to receive a copy of the order form you can call our office at 320-634-5327 or you can print it off from our website. The document is a pdf file and it can be found at www.popeswcd.org. New this year is the enhancement of the native grass program. The district is offering customized mixes for the 26th General CRP sign up that have been approved through the Natural

Resource Conservation Service. See the information below for the 2004 Seed and Mix Prices.

Tree Mix (19.35/Acre for 15 lbs):

- Per. Ryegrass 30%
- Annual Ryegrass 20%
- Timothy 15%
- Tall Fescue 20%
- Kentucky Bluegrass 15%

CP21 (\$65.00/Acre)

- Big Bluestem
- Indiangrass
- Sideoats grama
- Purple Prairie Clover

CP21 Basic (\$30.00/Acre)

- Switchgrass
- CP25 (\$55.00/Acre)**
- 10 Grasses/5 Wildflowers

CP28/21 (\$64.00/Acre) CP28 (\$47.00/Acre)

- Big Bluestem
- Sideoats grama
- Indiangrass
- Slender Wheatgrass
- Western Wheatgrass
- Purple Prairie Clover
- Yarrow

Call to set up an appointment today to organize your grass & wildflower plantings. 320-634-5327.



"Plantskydd is now available at the Pope SWCD office and can be applied on all types of plants..."

PROTECT YOUR TREES FROM DEER & RABBITS

Many of our customers have had concerns with protecting their new trees from browsing deer, rabbits, and mice. In response to these concerns the Pope SWCD has been looking into cost effective protection methods in addition to the tree tubes.

Plantskydd is a product made in the U.S. from 100% natural ingredients. The active ingredient is

dried porcine and/or bovine blood-recognized by the EPA as an environmentally safe ingredient. It is also non-toxic and not harmful to animals or the environment.

Plantskydd has a distinct smell which detours wildlife for up to 6 months when applied in the fall and for 4 months when applied in the spring.

Plantskydd is now available at the Pope SWCD office and can be applied on all types of plants except on the edible parts. It is available in a 2.2 lb soluble powder box, 1 liter liquid squirt bottle, or a 5 quart jug.

Stop by our office for a brochure or visit our website for more information at www.popeswcd.org.

NRCS SPONSORS SOILS JUDGING CONTEST

Craig Bower, District Conservationist and Mike Lieser, Soil Scientist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service helped to organize the 2003 FFA Soils Judging Contest held at the Cory Haugen Farm. There were approximately 12 teams that participated in the event from the 2 regions.

There were a total of 4 pits that the students

judged the soil for texture, slope, permeability, and type. This information can be used to help determine if it would be a good building site. This information can be used as a tool to determine the best farming practices to improve the soil. A conservation tillage program could be developed to help reduce soil erosion.

Minnewaska Area High

School had a team coached by Ron Nelson. The team consisted of Matt Bailey (2nd place individual), John Klimek (9th place individual), and Adam Terhaar. The team finished second overall and will advance to the state competition in April. The Pope SWCD wishes the team well as they advance! Congratulations on a job well done.

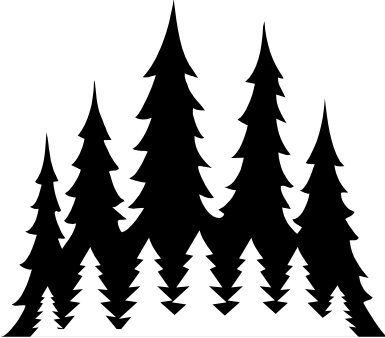


SOIL EROSION PROBLEMS?

Pope Soil & Water Conservation District has funding available for soil erosion problems. This will be in the form of cost share. Some examples include tile and earthen dikes and sediment control basins.

Kim Krueger is the District Technician who works with these programs. Stop by if you have any questions regarding the program. Now is the time to do so as there are a limited number of cost share funds available for

these kinds of projects. Kim can be reached at 320-634-5327 or by email at kim.krueger@mn.usda.gov.



SWCD SIGNS AGREEMENTS WITH NRCS

The Pope Soil & Water Conservation District has been working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and has signed agreements to assist with the implementation of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Reserve

Program. The district will provide technical assistance on the different projects associated with these two programs.

Pope County NRCS has awarded 18 contracts for EQIP worth \$315,000. This will be to apply conservation to private lands. The cost share

amount is 50% for the landowner.

Future signups may occur after the first of the year. If you are interested in learning more about these programs call our office 320-634-5327.

CCRP Buffers Promote Wildlife/Habitat

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is still available to landowners. This program allows landowners to enroll acres into buffer strips, filter strips, and shelterbelts as well as other practices. There is cost share available for the practices

applied. Contact our office for more information on this program and to set up an appointment with one of the staff in the conservation office. We can be reached at 320-634-5327 or email info@popeswcd.org.



HYBRID POPLAR HARVEST UNDERWAY



"The harvest begins with the pruning of branches and leaves...."

Pope SWCD has begun to harvest the many varieties of hybrid poplars grown at their research farm near Westport, Minnesota. The harvest begins with the pruning off of the branches and leaves as shown left. This process takes nearly a week to complete which is all done by hand. The second step is to cut the trees down. This is done around the end of November. The poplars are then cut into 10 inch sections and sorted according to size and grade. Once sorted

the cuttings are prepared for storage over the winter by packing them in bundles in plastic bags and stacked in bins, covered with snow and the snow covered with straw to keep them dormant.

The hybrid poplar cuttings are good for many uses including raw materials, pulpwood for paper products, construction materials, pallets, furniture, biofuel, aesthetic, recreational, reduce runoff, flooding,

erosion, and improve water quality by utilizing nutrients from agricultural runoff.

If you are interested in learning more about hybrid poplars or wish to order please call 320-634-5327 or print off and send in an order form which can be found on our website at www.popeswcd.org.



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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.popeswcd.org

POPE SWCD TO HOLD FIELD DAY

The Pope Soil & Water Conservation District will hold a field day at the Herman Rosholt Research Farm in Westport, MN. This year's event will focus on manure management, renewable energy, and water quality. There will also be water testing available. The event will begin with

registration at 9 a.m. on August 5, 2004. The event is open to anyone and it is free. We encourage all to attend the event as representatives from the University of Minnesota, the Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and more will be available to

answer your questions. There will also be a research trial and a tour of a manure storage facility as part of the days activities. A lunch will be served by the Soil and Water District. Watch the Spring Newsletter for more information on the 2004 Pope SWCD Field Day or our website at www.popeswcd.org

WISHING YOU A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

The Pope SWCD staff and board along with the NRCS staff would like to wish you all a safe & happy holiday season.



POPE SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1680 Franklin St North
Glenwood, MN 56334

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Seasons Greetings

